

FEEDING FRENZY



Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

Wartburg students, faculty and staff along with community members create food packets in the Physical Plant Friday as part of the Feed My Starving Children initiative.

ELLEN KURT STAFF WRITER

More than 500 volunteers including Wartburg students, faculty, staff and Waverly church members packed 100,000 nutritional meals to be sent to 50 different countries through Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) last week.

FMSC is a nonprofit organization that helps pack meals and send them to hunger-stricken nations around the world.

About 11,000 meals were packed each hour, which could feed around 35 families for a year. Each of the "packers" was challenged to raise \$10 and Thrivent Financial Insurance for Lutherans matched it one to three. The company will give an additional one-third

of the total raised.

Pastor Larry Trachte said \$15,000 is their goal, which would cover the 15-cent cost for each meal. \$11,000 has been raised so far.

"[Students should] do things that [they] can do here. Be conscious of not wasting food, help charities, be aware and be educated about hunger issues, and don't be guilty of ignorance," Trachte said.

Trachte said students are not as poor as they think compared to some of the people facing hunger. He said Feed My Starving Children is only part of the answer and there needs to be an answer that will be long-term.

See ORGANIZATION DEVELOPED page 5

Judge finds Yordi not guilty

STEFFANI TOLLEFSON STAFF WRITER

Nick Yordi has been found not guilty of disorderly conduct charges stemming from an incident last fall.

Yordi was arrested for disorderly conduct Oct. 12, after student Joe Apel said Yordi yelled homosexual slurs at him Oct. 9.

Magistrate Ronald Pepples filed a ruling Tuesday, March 4. He said it was clear Yordi directed abusive words at Apel, but the second portion of the disorderly conduct charge was not proved, because the law requires that the slurs would likely cause a violent reaction, and Apel did

not react violently.

"It seems a lot of people wanted me to do something violent against Nick. I'm not like that and I think that would send an even worse message," Apel wrote in an e-mail Sunday.

See APEL REACTS page 3

Retention drops; administration calls for improvement proposals

JACKIE ALBRECHT STAFF WRITER

The fall to winter retention rate at Wartburg has fallen almost two percent this year making it the lowest retention rate in the past several years.

The retention rate is 93.9 percent this year, compared to the previous two years when it was 95.7 percent.

Students typically choose to leave Wartburg for a combination of reasons, Edie Waldstein, vice president of enrollment management, said.

Academic success, comfort level and financial problems were noted as the main reasons stu-

dents choose to leave Wartburg. However, students who take a leave of absence or are suspended are also counted as non-returning students, Waldstein said.

"I think that sometimes students believe they're going to save money by leaving a private college and going to a public university," Waldstein said. "I really encourage those students to sit down and do the math because often times it's not cheaper to go to a public university. And it's rarely cheaper to go to a public university if you're going to be there five or six years."

Allison Kirschbaum is transferring next year due to concerns

with Wartburg's size.

"I feel Wartburg is a really good school, but it's surrounded in a bubble and too small for my preference," Kirschbaum said.

Despite the lower retention rate this winter, Waldstein isn't worried.

"It's lower than I would've liked to see, but in general, it's very good. We just want to keep our eye on it. It's a snapshot midyear; even though it's lower, I don't have any concerns," Waldstein said.

The Retention Committee is currently accepting proposals for ways to help improve retention

See PROPOSALS ACCEPTED page 2

Tuition increases; Board seeks solutions

Total increase 6.9 percent

LAURA GREVAS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The cost of a Wartburg education will be around \$33,788 for the 2008-2009 academic year, using average the average room charge for calculations.

This is an increase of \$2,353 from this year's total of \$31,435. The percentage of the increase is 6.9 percent, down from last year's increase of 7.3 percent. This is the twelfth year in a row for which tuition has increased.

"We were really pleased that we were able to hold the tuition, room, board and fees down under 7 percent. I wish we would

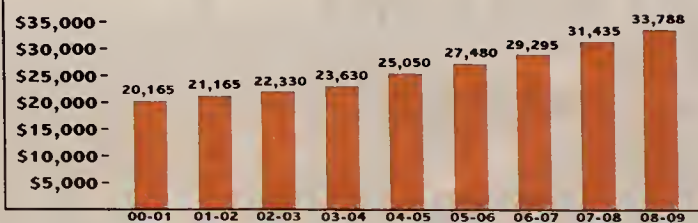
never have to raise tuition...but at the same time we have an institution that must run a sound financial operation," President Jack R. Ohle said.

Full-time tuition is \$25,360, up from \$23,600 and general board will run students \$3,820. Room charges range from \$3,435 to \$4,870, for an average of \$3,808.

This year, a student services fee of \$800 has replaced what was a technology fee and general fee. This money goes toward "The W," technology, Outfly, Homcoming and other services.

See FEES INCREASE page 2

Total Cost Of Attending Wartburg College



Graphic by Loren Thomas

GAYLA

Alliance sponsors week of
awareness events

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Service Snapshots

Students travel the nation
to help those in need

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Freshman alcohol write-ups decrease

CARINA ELLICKSON STAFF WRITER

First-year students at Wartburg may be cutting back on drinking. In the fall term, write-ups for freshmen drinking or possessing alcohol dropped significantly from past years.

Residence hall directors and resident assistants in Clinton Hall and Centennial Complex, the first-year residence halls, have all reported they are seeing less alcohol use among students.

Residential Life staff is excited about the change and are trying to understand what has caused the positive turnaround. One reason the numbers are down could be because of a new policy.

As of September, Clinton Hall and Centennial Complex have become completely alcohol-free. Anyone found with alcohol in the buildings will be written up, regardless of age.

Clinton Hall Director CJ Yerington said the change was made to make the rules more concrete.

"The change is less of a policy change and more a change of attitude. There's probably 97 percent of our first-year students who live on campus within Clinton Hall or the Complex," he said. "Therefore, with being 18 years of age, obviously they are not even close to being of legal drinking age. It just seemed like the appropriate

thing to do."

However some resident assistants doubt whether the policy change has made first-years less likely to drink.

"Alcohol write-ups in the dorms are less this year because the rules are more black-and-white and students are finding other venues to do their business," Hannah Piper, a resident assistant, said.

Some freshmen argue the change is not caused by fear of getting caught or because of new consequences. Many are simply seeking ways to have fun without using alcohol.

Kelli Hobart, a first-year living in Centennial Complex, said between friends and work, she doesn't have time to worry about drinking.

"I personally do not drink because I find that having fun you should probably remember it so you can make college memories. I really like hanging out with my roommate. We watch 'Friends' a lot, we play card games and Facebook together. It's quite fun," she said.

Regardless of the reasons behind the drop in alcohol use, Wartburg's Residential Life staff is thrilled with the difference they have seen.

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Fees increase next year

FROM PAGE 1

In addition to student services, many increasing fees come from the need to pay salaries and benefits for the college's nearly 300 employees.

"The increases in those expenses go up higher than what we increase tuition by," Ohle said.

He added that most students receive financial aid, but even without it, they only pay for about 71 percent of the cost of

running the college. The rest is funded by outside sources of revenue such as the endowment, "The W," and on-campus restaurants available to the public.

Ohle said he understands increasing costs place a burden on students and said the Board of Regents is looking at ways to stabilize the increases.

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Proposals accepted for retention improvement; cash prizes offered

FROM PAGE 1

among students. Proposals that are chosen will receive awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

The committee also devises possible steps the enrollment management office can take to maintain retention and help support students. New additions to campus this year were the math lab and the Academic Resource Centers placed in first-year dorms, both of which are supported by Pathways.

Although the retention rate is lower compared to rates in the past, Wartburg compares well to other colleges and universities, Waldstein said.

"We're actually noted for a pretty high retention rate. It's certainly much higher than at the public universities ... and it's relatively high even among private colleges and universities," Waldstein said.

Retention is measured twice a year from fall to winter and fall to fall. The fall to winter retention rate is to monitor Wartburg's mid-year retention. The more important retention rate is the fall to fall rate, Waldstein said.

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Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

Nate Maldonado break dances as part of the Culture Week celebration in the Lyceum Sunday night.

"The Zesty World" entertains, educates community members

AYSHA ESHONOVA STAFF WRITER

Culture Week 2008, an annual tradition of events put on by international students, took place March 12 through 18. This year the event was called "The Zesty World."

Wartburg College has over 100 international students and all students were ready to share their culture with members of the Wartburg and Waverly community.

Students cooked foods of their native countries for the dinner Sunday evening.

"It was a great opportunity to cook and share with my food this culture week," Hokuma Babayeva of Azerbaijan said. "I liked all parts, because this whole event gave me a chance to represent my country."

Kevin Roiseland, director of international students programs, and his administrative assistant, Joann Strottman, worked with the international students to make Culture Week possible.

"Well, when I think about sheer number of hours that students have devoted to making this a success, it really is amazing," Roiseland said. "There were so many things to do, to get almost 80 students to work together for several weeks, finding time to coordinate the schedule... but it is great to be a part of it."

It has been a busy semester for the international students. Finding traditional dresses, practicing after classes and cooking for 250 people took much of their time and dedication.

"Since it is one of our main events, everyone who is involved in International Club and all international students are excited," Dalbir Kour, the president of International Club, said. "Not only

students but faculty members and host families are also excited about the food that students cook and the performance that students prepare after hard work of more than two month."

Audience members were impressed with the events, especially the performances.

"It was wonderful ... a lot of energy. Students worked hard on their parts. It was just beautiful the way it was arranged," Mary MacCart said. "Also, it was very varied. Every country had something very special. The performances were the best, and the food was unusual for my taste."

Contact Aysha Eshonova at Oyshakhon.Eshonova@wartburg.edu



Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

Students decorate the bookstore windows to celebrate Culture Week.

Retention Improvement

Facts

Current Rate: 93.9

Previous Rate: 95.7

Improvement proposals could win up to \$1,000!

Graphic by Loren Thomas



Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

A Wartburg student performs as "Vain Peacock" at Alliance's third annual drag show Saturday night in Neumann Auditorium. The event was part of GAYLA week to raise awareness for LGBT issues.

Drag show raises money for Alliance

EMILY SCHMITT STAFF WRITER

Alliance kicked off its annual GAYLA week with a performance by singer/songwriter Chris Dallman last week.

Alliance also sponsored its third annual drag show Saturday. The show included students, staff and professional performers. Loras's Gay-Straight Alliance visited campus to compete against Wartburg's Alliance during the show.

Alliance plans GAYLA week each year to help create awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Transsexual (LGBT) issues. The events are an opportunity for people to educate themselves.

"We're trying to educate people

about the truth. So much of what people believe is false," Matthew Ollendick, president of Alliance, said.

Alliance will present LGBT History Night at 8:15 p.m. Monday in room 215 of the Whitehouse Business Center.

The final event of GAYLA week is movie night at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Voecks Auditorium of the Science Center. The movie "Poster Boy" will be shown.

Alliance recently became recognized as a "Reconciling in Christ" organization. They are on a national roster of organizations, congregations and synods that have adopted affirmations of welcoming gay and lesbian people.

About one out of every 18

Wartburg students is a member of Alliance. There are currently more than 100 students involved in the organization, who work to educate the community and encourage discussion on sexuality issues. The group offers support for students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Ollendick said Alliance has received support from the Wartburg community, but the group does have their signs torn down occasionally.

"Some people are not interested in educating themselves, some can just be plain ignorant," Ollendick said.

Contact Emily Schmitt at Emily.Schmitt@wartburg.edu

Student Senate and administration fund recycling initiative; bins ordered

WHITNEY FREE ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Student Senate and President Jack R. Ohle have made recycling a priority, pledging to buy the necessary bins to complete the initiative as soon as funding is agreed upon.

Senate contributed \$6,000 toward the bins, which they hope to have on campus by summer. They are now waiting on Ohle to match the contribution with \$6,000 from the operating budget to reach the \$12,000 it takes to purchase the bins.

"The recycling committee was going to have to go through a long process to secure funding that may not have gotten us recycling until next fall, but Student Senate and President Ohle thought it was a priority that needed immediate action," Eric Benson, student body president, said.

"Senate and the administration have worked together very nicely on a number of projects," Ohle said, noting the recent addition of handicapped accessible doors across campus. "They've been very interested in recycling for a long time, and the college is very much

concerned about recycling."

Six stations around campus will include four bins each for cans, glass, paper and plastic. The recycling committee looked at several companies' bins to find the best product for the best price. The bins they chose are made of recycled milk jugs, making them more durable than the strongest wood, Benson said.

"These are more expensive than the last bins we had, but they will be used for many years," he said.

The bins will be cemented into the ground right next to dumpsters, making it just as easy to recycle as to take out the trash,

Benson said.

"The tough thing is that the students need to take that seriously," Ohle said. "In a rush, a student will throw a glass bottle into a plastic bottle container. It takes an effort to do recycling, but what a value to our environment."

Two work-study positions will be available next year for six hours per week. A 15-passenger van with the seats removed will help the workers gather and transport the recyclables.

Contact Whitney Free at Whitney.Free@wartburg.edu

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Spiritual Emphasis Week exposes campus to different faiths

VICTORIA BRESHEARS STAFF WRITER

SEE IT. WTV8
READ IT.

Spiritual Emphasis Week, sponsored by various campus ministry groups, took place March 12 through 18.

This year's theme, "Go, Do," will focus on the project Feed My Starving Children, a grass-roots effort to provide nourishment to malnourished infants and children.

"Pastor Trachte and I have been part of the planning and will be at as many of the events as possible," Ramona Bouzard, campus pastor, said. "P.T., along with a group of students and staff, has headed up the Feed My Starving Children pack and has gone out with students to talk to community and church groups.

"He has also spent a great deal of time making arrangements and recruiting workers on campus through organizations and athletic teams."

Naiya Panchal said even non-Christian students could learn from Spiritual Emphasis week.

"Being an individual of the Hindu faith, I do feel that it would give me a chance to get to learn more about my fellow students,"

she said. "It gives me a great opportunity to learn more about different perspectives my peers hold and the ways in which they are inclined to carry through with their spiritual beliefs."

Spiritual Emphasis Week included several events to incorporate the education and

discussion of spirituality other than Christianity, such as an International Christianity Panel and the Slife lecture on Islamic Mysticism.

"I do believe that we need much more opportunity to learn from one another within the Christian tradition from students on campus who are from religious traditions other than Christianity, and I would hope we could have much more open conversations ... where we simply listen and learn from one another," Bouzard said.

"I know that happens in classrooms, but it would be great if it would happen more freely for students in informal settings where they were willing to respect, honor, and support one another."

On Tuesday, Spiritual Emphasis week will conclude with a convocation featuring author Greg Mortenson.

Mortenson will give a lecture and answer questions on his experience in Pakistan and the writing of his book, "Three Cups of Tea."

"You obviously cannot do everything in one week and Spiritu-

"It gives me a great opportunity to learn more about different perspectives my peers hold."

-Naiya Panchal

al Emphasis Week isn't meant to be one big blow out event; it's simply an opportunity to hopefully help all students to learn or experience something new and feel comfortable talking about questions of faith with one another," Bouzard said.

Contact Victoria Breshears at Victoria.Breshears@wartburg.edu

Apel responds to verdict

FROM PAGE 1

Apel, who is out of the country, said he was initially upset by the verdict but is now just glad that it is over. He feels justice was not served at the college or judicial level, but would not change his response to Yordi's comments.

"I'm very proud of myself for taking the action I did because it shows that this kind of behavior is not to be tolerated against anyone," he said.

Yordi did admit in court that he yelled slurs out the window, but said they were just meant to get a laugh. Yordi did not respond to attempts to reach him for comment.

Laura Grevas contributed to the content of this article.

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TRUMPET

PRODUCED WEEKLY BY STUDENTS
AT WARTBURG COLLEGE, 100 WARTBURG BLVD.
WAVERLY, IOWA 50677

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Letters to the editor are subject to editing without changing the meaning of the letter. Authors will not be notified of changes prior to publishing. Letters must be signed, fewer than 250 words, submitted by 9 p.m. Thursday and related to current issues in the Wartburg community. Letters may be sent to the communication arts office or e-mailed to trumpet@wartburg.edu. Please type "Letter to the Editor" as the subject line. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.

Letters to the editor

Student calls for solution to locker room problem

I was excited about Hallie Lehman's letter to the editor about "The W." However my friends, I realized that a few letters would not get us back in the locker rooms. We need to be treated as though we pay a non-refundable \$200 a semester...which we do! I heard they 'questioned' students on the locker matter and obviously they had the wrong student opinion. Everyone I've talked to wants locker rooms they don't get kicked out of. For example, when the visitor locker rooms are closed, students, male and female, are expected to change together in the family changing room.

Some students only have time to work out between classes and are cutting their workouts short to shower and change in their dorm because of the community shower. Cutting workouts short eventually will add up health wise. There's plenty of room in the member locker rooms. Before the lockout every Tuesday and Thursday I went, there would maybe be five people there.

Students, my plan is simple. Every time you work out, send an e-mail to director Jim Langel (jim.langel@wartburg.edu) to politely inform and remind him: 1. We pay just as much as members and should be treated as such and 2. What troubles you at "The W"...be it being late to class because you couldn't shower or having to change with men in the family changing room, or having the embarrassing wet walk from the pool to the locker rooms. Maybe then, something might change. We can only be ignored for so long.

Susan Scott '10

Students not full community members, "W" issues continue to arise *Pool hours, locker room problems continue to plague the student body*

TYLER VACHTA GUEST COLUMNIST

Wartburg's newest edifice, "The W," stands as one of the finest community wellness centers in the Midwest, and has impressed many with its numerous features. However, policies at this top notch facility have begun to frustrate students.

Like many others, I was shocked to discover that full-time Wartburg students paying a Wellness [Center] Fee are not actual members of "The W." This means students are not allowed in member lockers, which provide access to the pool, private showers, hair dryers, swimsuit ringers, towel service, etc., and are arbitrarily given a lower status at the center. Students are allotted the visitor's locker



rooms, which lack the above features and are unavailable during athletic events. Additionally, student schedules were not taken into consideration when planning pool hours, which close before most students wake up, open for a short period of time when students either have class or lunch, and then close in the early evening before most students are free to wind down.

Some perceive it as Wartburg students being second class citizens at the WARTBURG-Waverly Wellness Center. I am one of them.

Various people have tried to explain it to me: though students pay \$200 for one semester (approximately four months of use),

an amount cited at \$70 by Gary Grace goes towards the health clinic. So, based on an individual membership fee of \$50 per month, maybe we're \$70 short of a full membership. Maybe.

What if Wartburg gave students a little break: a discount for membership based on perceived economic hardship of being a full-time student (a philosophy similar to the 'family' plans). At the two member family plan rate, they'd pay \$140 per semester for membership, leaving \$60 towards the health center. At the three member family membership rate, they'd pay \$108 per semester, leaving the \$70 for health center fees, plus \$22 for smoothies. So if we think in an economically realistic manner, students should be entitled to a full membership, and maybe a little extra. Families don't

receive fewer services for their discounted rate, so why should students?

One should also note that, although students pay for the health center in their fees, their insurance is also billed when they visit the center. So what does that quarter of a million dollars per year go toward?

I certainly doubt the community members felt uncomfortable with the students using the member lockers. To the contrary, I imagine it is more uncomfortable for everyone to have student swimmers relegated to the few family changing rooms (a suggestion from "The W" staff).

At the heart, if we ignore that finances actually do pan out we must step back and ask ourselves: what is the fundamental reason students should be denied full

membership into the Wellness Center? Does it benefit someone, or solely segregate?

Last semester, in addressing some charge perceived as extraneous, President Ohle addressed the issue by reminding us that we are part of a community, a community which wants to be a "wellness" campus, as Gary Grace put it.

Whether you agree with that statement or not, let's assume it stands, and needs to be upheld. Is this how the community we belong to is supposed to treat us? Should we expect a separate water fountain labeled "Members Only" in the near future? I know this is ridiculous. My peers know this is ridiculous. I hope the rest of the Wartburg community realizes this, too.

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From the Other Side

of the Desk

St. Patrick's Day is about more than green beer and leprechauns

DANIEL BLACK FACULTY GUEST WRITER

The other day at HyVee my daughter Ruth was gazing covetously at a cheap string of green beads. They could easily have been leftovers from Mardi Gras were it not for the two pendants dangling from each. One was a little plastic shot glass, the other a plastic shamrock that proclaimed: "Irish for a Day." I sighed. It's St. Patrick's Day in the 21st century.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not quite half Irish and I've drunk more than my fair share of toasts in the name of the saint. However, it reminded me of the time when Ruth was four and told me that they had been learning about St. Patrick that afternoon in preschool. Curious, I asked her who they said this Patrick was. Confidently, she said, "He's a little green man who plays tricks on people." That's right. The patron saint of Ireland had become the Lucky Charms guy.

No, I explained, Patrick was an ordinary man. He built churches in Ireland. No green suits. No pot-o'-gold. No, he didn't even drive the snakes off the island. Just built churches. That's all.



That's all? Ordinary man? At 15, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery to Irish pagans. He spent six years virtually alone, watching his master's cattle. In a dream, he was told to run away and seek a ship to take him back to Britain. He walked 200 miles to the East Coast of the island. There, he asked the crew of another pirate ship to take him home. Miraculously, they did. But almost immediately he began to have dreams calling him back to the

Irish. After some months or years of preparation, he returned and within his lifetime converted virtually the entire island to Christianity. Briefly, Ireland became a center of Christian learning and culture.

However, within a few centuries the island was conquered by the same Norman French that conquered England and would remain a subject nation for another 800 years. The English overlords dismissed the natives as illiterate drunkards and thieves. During the Great Famines of the 1840s when a million of them came to America, it was much the same. Everywhere, signs in shop win-

dows read: "Irish not welcome," or "Irish need not apply."

So, they took the jobs no one else would take. Cops, firefighters, coal miners, athletes, gangsters, railroad workers. Their stigma was gradually lost and largely forgotten in the face of new waves of immigrants to discriminate against. But their sons and daughters refused to forget. They organized parades. They wore the green. They continued to march (and yes, drink and fight) with the belligerent stubbornness of an oppressed but proud underclass. They unknowingly were blazing a trail for other persecuted peoples of this nation to follow. And still they march.

When doors close to any of us whatever our ancestry, we are Irish. When people tell us we're not welcome whatever our difference, we are Irish. It isn't in our hair color or skin hue, religious belief or sexual orientation. It's in our hearts. It doesn't matter whether we're 100 percent County Clare or can't tell the difference between a shillelagh and a shamrock. We aren't just "Irish for a Day. Pass the beer!"

Today, we are all Irish.

Contact Daniel Black at
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Stories offer insight to "real world"

Two articles in the Trumpet should have captions like "Welcome to the real world."

Cops arrest young lady for traffic ticket at 1:13 a.m. "The W" is for money, not for enjoyment. Pay or don't show up. When I retired from Wartburg in 1995, I was given a lifetime use of the complex [PEC]. Guess what? That does not count at "The W." Money, you see, counts.

Cops can use Hitler SS storm trooper methods.

They used them on the Jews in World War II. Night-time arrests created terror among the Jews, which gave the SS joy. The city council should get this police chief and his two troopers at a council meeting and read them their rights. I would like to write them. Guess what? In the real world the haves don't care and the rest say, "Glad it's not me."

Roger Anhalt, retired staff member

Career College offers seniors post-graduation opportunities

RACHEL CLAMAN STAFF WRITER

Various campus offices are organizing Career College, an event intended to help graduating seniors who have not yet decided on plans after college.

The event will take place 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Saemann Student Center. A vocational lunch is available from 12 to 1 p.m.

"I hope to show seniors that there are resources on campus available to help with life after Wartburg," Lia Kampman, student coordinator, said. Kampman has worked with Derek Solheim, associate director of career services, to make the event happen.

The Career College will present job opportunities by major, job search strategies and alternatives to employment. Other options after graduation include volunteering or graduate school. The Career College

will offer help in writing cover letters, resumes, salary projections, networking and other general tips.

"Graduating is a daunting task. Not only do seniors need to keep up on their daily school work, but they must also find jobs, search for places to live and contemplate leaving behind what they had experienced at Wartburg," Kampman said.

The vocation lunch will be provided for those who attend the Career College event. The event will feature Wartburg alumni.

The event is sponsored by the Discovering and Claiming Your Callings Initiative, Pathways, Alumni and Parent Programs, the Center for Community Engagement and Iowa Campus Compact.

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Mitchell to start wrestling program from scratch at Grand View College

MAC SLAVIN ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Admissions counselor and assistant wrestling coach Nick Mitchell is packing his bags and heading to Des Moines, as he takes a new path in his coaching career.

Mitchell has coached at Wartburg for eight years and worked in admissions for five. Mitchell is taking a position at Grand View College to help the Vikings start up their wrestling program.

Wrestling will be back in the Des Moines area after being on hiatus for about 15 years. In the 1992-93 season Drake dropped their program and left Des Moines without college wrestling.

"I'm from the Des Moines area originally," Mitchell said. "It's always kind of been my goal to be a full-time head wrestling coach so I looked into it and it looked like it would be a good fit for me, so I decided to pursue it."

On March 5, Grand View officially announced Mitchell would be their head wrestling coach. Grand View has never competed in varsity wrestling.

"It's hard enough going in to start with a new program but it's different starting from scratch,"

Mitchell said.

"There's nobody on the team so I'm doing all the work right now, and it's somewhat late doing that and looking for recruits so it's been a little bit of a process."

Mitchell is going through the recruiting process right now, but he said it is tough to get people to come wrestle for the Vikings.

"It's exciting because the people I've been talking to talk about having a chance to be the first everything: first All-American, first national champ ... I think the kids are excited about that too," Mitchell said.

He said he will especially miss the people at Wartburg.

"I have connections all over campus between being a student here, a coach here and working in the admissions office. I'll definitely miss all those people for sure," he said.

Mitchell will be taking his years of experience coaching under Jim Miller to the Vikings and said Miller has been a big influence on his coaching career.

"I kind of always knew that I wanted to coach and I was teaching in this area when Coach Miller asked me if I wanted to come down and help out, and I

was definitely excited to do that.

"If you are going coach there's not a better person to learn from than Coach Miller," Mitchell said.

Mitchell made his mark on Wartburg as a wrestler and as a coach.

"He has done a superb job," President Jack R. Ohle said.

"He was an outstanding wrestler here. I remember watching him wrestle as a student. We were very pleased that he was able to help Coach Miller with the wrestling program."

Mitchell's collegiate career at Wartburg included three Iowa Conference championships and three All-American awards.

Mitchell finished his career as a Knight with 114 wins, which puts him at number seven on the all-time wins list for the Knights.

Mitchell made his presence known at Wartburg as an athlete, a coach and as an admissions counselor.

"I'm going to miss Wartburg a lot," Mitchell said.

"But I'm excited about doing something different and I'll be back, I'm sure, plenty to cheer on the Knights."

Contact Mac Slavin at
Mac.Slavin@wartburg.edu



Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

Brian Roberts performed with his band, Ha Ha Tonka, in the Lyceum last Monday. The event was sponsored by Entertainment ToKnight.

Res Life warns students following Loras death

JOSH MONIZ STAFF WRITER

Residential Life sent an e-mail during Winter Break encouraging students to watch for symptoms of bacterial meningitis after the death of a Loras College student in early March.

"The problem is that the symptoms would make you assume you just had the flu," Peter Armstrong, director of Residential Life, said.

"It was lucky [the outbreak] happened over a break. That way, if a student had the symptoms they could have gone to their family physician."

Audrey Fitzgerald was found dead in her dormitory at Loras on March 2. An autopsy revealed she had contracted bacterial meningitis.

Fitzgerald had been vaccinated. No further outbreak at Loras has been reported.

Wartburg students are encouraged to get meningitis vaccinations as part of their physical when they enroll at Wartburg. Students are encouraged to visit the Noah Health Center if they start exhibiting symptoms.

Meningitis Symptoms

- headache ● stiff neck
- fever/chills ● confusion
- recent upper respiratory infection

Contact Josh Moniz at
Josh.Moniz@wartburg.edu

Organization developed from humbling experience; Wartburg joins "food fight"

FROM PAGE 1

More than 18,000 children die every day because of starvation or starvation-related causes. FMSC is fighting this statistic. A Minnesota businessman who visited Haiti started the program because he was overwhelmed by how hunger was an everyday ordeal in Haiti.

He was walking in Haiti one day and heard the cries of a baby coming from an outhouse, where he discovered that the baby had been thrown in by its mother. He tied a rope around his waist and lowered himself to rescue the baby. "Baby Moses," as the baby was soon called, was put in a shelter.

This experience inspired the man to develop a meal consisting of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and 20 vitamins that would curb hunger in countries like Haiti.

Corey Smith, former lecturer in English and modern languages, suggested the idea of bringing FMSC to the Wartburg campus to Trachte last year.

The program is privately funded, and 95 percent of the money raised goes to food.

Laura Nielssen '04, FMSC off-site operations manager, approached Trachte about making Wartburg a packing site.

The IS 201 Poverty and Social Wealth classes will sponsor a similar event called "Empty Bowls" at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Chapel Commons and partake in a soup and bread bowl supper.

The cost is \$10, and those who attend may keep their bowl decorated by Wartburg students and Big Brothers and Big Sisters participants. Proceeds go towards the Salvation Army and their food program in Waterloo.

Following the supper is a panel discussion called "Food Fight," involving members of the Wartburg and Waverly communities.

Each month Wartburg sponsors a charity, and any money raised during chapel services or donations from elsewhere go to this charity.

Central Asian Institute, founded by Greg Mortenson, was sponsored last fall. Enough money was raised to build a Wartburg school in a place where a school would have never existed otherwise.

Contact Ellen Kurt at Ellen.Kurt@wartburg.edu



Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

Belle and the Beast of American Family Theaters performed in Neumann Auditorium last week for a near-capacity crowd. The musical was part of Wartburg's Artists Series.

Students exemplify college's mission of service



Lisa Nowles, a service trip leader, scrubs floors in Biloxi, Miss. during Winter Break.



Students on the New Orleans service trip spent the week gutting and repairing homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

SNEHA PRADHAN NEWS EDITOR

Wartburg College ranks number one in engaging students in service among Iowa colleges and universities based on the percentage of students involved in 2007 service trips. Twelve percent of Wartburg students participated last year. The college ranks number three among 126 chapters of Break Away, the national alternative Spring Break organization.

"Wartburg does a good job of placing value on service. Students value service, which is tied to our roots. I see that more in the Lutheran tradition. We have an amazing student body," Renee Sedlacek, community service associate, said.

Sedlacek said she hopes students transform their minds and think about what their role is in the world and how their strengths and passions can meet the needs of others.

"A lot of students see changes within themselves. They're trying to understand what that change is and what to do with that change," she said. "Service trips get you out of your comfort zone. You meet new friends and are exposed to new things."

"Lots of students come back yearning to go back to their service trip and recognizing you don't have to go far away to serve. There are needs in Waverly and the Cedar Valley. The experience that they have in service is something that they can bring

back home."

Sarah Abele travelled to East St. Louis with 16 people and worked in a thrift store, soup kitchen and homeless shelter. Abele said her favorite part was working with children in the after-school programs.

"I wanted to work more with people. I want to be a teacher and I think it's important to understand poverty. Just because I know the background my kids come from, it'll help me teach better. The more I know about my students, the better teacher I can be," she said.

"It was fun going with people I go to school with. I have a close relationship with people I wouldn't have had otherwise."

Abele and her group worked with Catholic Urban Programs and made 300 Easter baskets for children and 40 meals a night for homeless people.

More than 150 students with 16 advisers including three faculty, 11 staff, two alumni and a community member travelled to 10 states for 12 service trips during Winter Break.

The destinations included East St. Louis

and St. Louis, Mo.; Chicago; Denver; San Bernadino, Calif.; Happy, Texas; New Orleans; Biloxi, Miss.; Atlanta; Charleston, S.C.; Des Moines and New York City.

The service trips are funded by the Student Senate with a \$11,000 Lily Grant with \$70 per student participant, \$3,500 from students giving up meals, \$100 participation fee and the rest through fundraising. Pop cans from bins across campus are redeemed for the service trip fund as well.

All trips are within a 1,500-mile radius of Waverly.

Students interested in service trips during Tour Week can sign up on the door of Center for Community Engagement April 18 and 19. The trips include New Orleans, Wartburg West in Denver and a Habitat for Humanity trip, which has a secret location.

Those interested can contact renee.sedlacek@wartburg.edu with service trip proposals.

Contact Sneha Pradhan at
Sneha.Pradhan@wartburg.edu



Aung Soe and Jimmie Hunter help hang dry wall on the New Orleans trip.



Students take time off from serving at Camp Biloxi to pose for the camera.

Courtesy Photos

Quidditch Comes to Wartburg

CHRISTIAN MUELLER KNIGHTLIFE EDITOR

Quidditch, the fictional game from the popular "Harry Potter" series by J.K. Rowling, has been translated to the real world and is finding a niche on college campuses.

The game, played with broomstick firmly between legs, is gaining popularity in the United States. Quidditch leagues are sprouting up across the country, and the trend is continuing at Wartburg.

Eric Dreibelbeis, Peter Ostiguy and Clancy Quinn are the three founders of the Wartburg Quidditch Team (yet to be officially named).

"Quidditch is the sort of game that will hopefully involve people who aren't usually into athletics," Ostiguy said. "We hope everyone will be interested in playing."

The team had its first meeting last Saturday with an attendance of around 20 interested students — more than enough to start a Quidditch team requiring eight players.

Still, Dreibelbeis, Ostiguy, and Quinn are hoping for a growing interest from the student body.

"This year we'll probably just start with some pick-up games to let the campus see what we're doing," Quinn said. "Next year we're hoping we'll be able to start an intramurals league and prepare to compete with other schools."

The Wartburg Quidditch Team has

conditional recognition from Student Senate as a campus group and are hoping they can gather enough interested students to get funding for the activity.

"Our budget is pretty much zero right now," Ostiguy said. "But we're hoping for funds from Senate and we'll probably try to get some fundraising going before anything with Senate pans out."

Expenses may be minimal to begin with, but as the team develops, more money will be needed to compete at an intercollegiate level.

"Each player needs a broomstick and a cape to play, plus the field needs six goal posts," Dreibelbeis said. "We don't have any storage space yet, so we'll have to figure out what to do with everything this year."

The closest Quidditch team is at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. Though Wartburg is in the center of about five teams — a prime position for hosting meets — competing at other institutions could pose financial problems.

Approximately 65 teams comprise the Intercollegiate Quidditch Association (IQA). The organization began at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., and the college unofficially heads up the loosely affiliated teams in the IQA.

Middlebury sends out Quidditch information packets containing rules and guidelines to all interested teams. Organization is not yet developed, so the

Middlebury and the IQA still work from the realm of Facebook.

"Muggle" Quidditch ("muggle" is the term used by Rowling in her books to describe non-magic-users) is played on foot while carrying a broom between the legs.

Teams are composed of eight players on each side and the game is played with four balls of three different types.

Three to four "chasers" use the single "quaffle" to score points in any of the three goals on the opponent's side of the field.

"The quaffle is usually a slightly deflated soccer ball or basketball," Quinn said. "We'll probably use the soccer ball."

One "keeper" acts as goalie and prevents the quaffle from entering the three goals.

Two "beaters" throw either of the two "bludgers" at players to "knock them off their brooms." This means players are forced to take a lap around the goals and go back to where they were hit before continuing play.

"We'll probably use two dodgeballs for 'bludgers' when we're playing," Dreibelbeis said.

Finally, there is a "seeker" who searches for the "snitch." The snitch (a magically flying ball in the books) is played by an impartial person whose only job is to stay away from the seekers.

"We have a couple of Track & Field people that showed interest in being the snitch," Quinn said.

The snitch and seekers may run all over campus while other players must stay on the field. Once the snitch is captured, the game is over and that team receives 50 points. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

"The biggest problem that we'll probably have to deal with is the 'nerd-stigma,'" Ostiguy said. "But when people start realizing how awesome the game is, hopefully

they'll get over it."

The Wartburg Quidditch Team will play a pick-up game during the weekend after Easter Break on Clinton Field.

Students interested in becoming a part of the Wartburg Quidditch Team should contact Ostiguy at Peter.Ostiguy@wartburg.edu for details on the game.

Contact Christian Mueller at
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Hedeen teaches English in Ukraine

EMILY VAN OOSBREE STAFF WRITER

Paul Hedeen, professor of English and writing at Wartburg, has left to teach in Ukraine for a semester.

Hedeen helped start the writing major at Wartburg four years ago, giving students a chance to enhance both their creative and scholarly writing skills.

He also wrote and published his first novel in 2006 titled "The Knowledge Tree."

While in Ukraine, Hedeen will be teaching two classes at a university in the city of Vinnytsya. The first class is an "academic Olympians" class, in which he teaches students who want to compete in a countrywide English language competition. His other course will deal with American literature, and each class will be taught in English.

Hedeen says the language barrier has not been a huge problem in the university setting.

"So far language has offered no barriers to the teaching," Hedeen said. "I'm teaching fourth and fifth-year students, and they are all very good English speakers and writers."

"Language has been a huge issue in all of my other associations though. Don't believe what the guide books say about widespread English in this country or Europe generally."

Ukraine has existed for most of its life as a nation-in-waiting, dominated by more powerful neighbors. As part of the USSR during much of the last half-century, it continually had to invest its agricultural wealth in propping up Russia.

Ukraine is just getting on its feet as an independent nation; as such it has many political, economic, and infrastructural problems that need to be solved before it can join the ranks of the highly developed nations.

"This is the strangest place I've ever been, but then again I'm not widely traveled," Hedeen said. "Everything is sufficiently different to be an adjustment. Its processes are a mix of many surrounding nations. Everything you eat, see and breathe is different."

Hedeen's absence is felt in the English department and throughout the rest of campus by students and faculty.

"It's been pretty hard having Dr. Hedeen gone this term, especially since I'm a senior and he's my adviser," Kelsey Nieman, one of his advisees, said. "So this was really one of those times that I've needed him the most. Without him, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Many students like Nieman take classes with Hedeen because of his unique way of teaching, which reaches out to students.

"I know a lot of people who take Hedeen classes even though they don't have to because he's such a great guy," Nieman said. "He really knows how to relate to his students and get them to feel comfortable enough to participate openly. He's also pretty hilarious."

Hedeen teaches many classes at Wartburg, and finding someone to replace him was difficult. Kim Groninga, an English and film professor from the University of Northern Iowa, took over two of Hedeen's regular classes including Literature and Film, a class Hedeen himself started a few years ago.

"It's not too tough following his objectives for the class," Groninga said. "His list of course goals makes complete sense to me and are the core of what I used to plan the course."

"What differs between Dr. Hedeen and me are the avenues we take to meet the objectives. So, while students come away with the same basic understandings from either professor, they arrive there from different experiences."

Groninga knows students in her class look up to Hedeen very highly, but this does not discourage her.

"It's good for Dr. Hedeen to step away and reconnect with his own writing and his own creativity," Groninga said. "It's good for Wartburg students to be exposed to a different set of ideas from another professor."

Hedeen will be returning to the country in June to teach summer classes at Wartburg.

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Immigration firmly on minds of students

CHRISTIAN MUELLER KNIGHTLIFE EDITOR

A former Wartburg international student, who asked to remain anonymous, believes immigration rules should be less strict, especially for students who are planning to study in the country.

"Some students need to take time off from Wartburg to make sure they have funds to complete their studies," the student, who is living in Waverly unlawfully, said. "This is just too difficult for those of us from other countries."

Many U.S. students may feel free to take a break from studies if financial troubles arise, but if an international student isn't studying, they're forced to leave the country.

Despite the relative weakness of the dollar, many international students find it difficult to meet educational costs and are often forced to hold several jobs at Wartburg to meet costs.

"I think a lot of students come here not knowing English perfectly," Akiko Miyazawa, a Wartburg international alumna said. "Plus it's hard to get anything but an on-campus job as a foreigner, so opportunities are sometimes limited by that."

Many students struggle to find jobs when they're nearing the end of their time at Wartburg to avoid any issues with their status if they choose to stay in the country.

Though many of the international students on campus cannot vote, many do follow the candidates and their views on the issues.

"Of course I follow the candidates," Claudio D'Amato said. "I plan on being in this country for the long-term, and even if I didn't, the domestic issues discussed will have some sort of bearing on me."

The immigration issue in the current election has focused primarily on illegal immigrants already within the country and preventing more from gaining access.

Many international students are concerned with their status in the country, but are not afraid to point the blame for the illegal immigration problem where they believe it belongs.

"Many people from Mexico and other countries come here because they don't have another choice," the anonymous student said.

"It is the U.S.'s responsibility to take care of these people as one of the richest countries in the world."

Some American students agree with that assessment.

"One of the things that doesn't get enough play in this election is the cause of illegal immigration," Stephanie Evans said. "The U.S. needs to focus on helping other countries to address the problem here."

"I definitely think the U.S. isn't doing enough abroad," Margie Croft said. "I'd like to see the politicians discuss the issue more."

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Suspect arrested in death of student

JESSE JAMES DECONTO, STANLEY CHAMBERS, JR. AND SAMUEL SPIES
MCT NEWS

Durham police early Thursday arrested Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr., the second suspect in the slaying of University of North Carolina student Eve Carson, and charged him also with the death in January of a Duke graduate student.

Lovett, 17, surrendered peacefully about 4:16 a.m. EDT after negotiating with police from a home in South Durham.

Police charged Lovett with murder in the Jan. 18 slaying of Abhijit Mahato and placed him in the Durham County Jail. Authorities do not expect to trans-

port him to Orange County before Friday.

The new charge against Lovett came as a surprise; he had been named Wednesday as a suspect only in the murder of Carson.

Lovett is the second person charged with killing Mahato, 29, who was shot to death in his apartment. Police previously charged Stephen Oates, 19, with Mahato's slaying. Oates also has been charged with more than a dozen armed robberies.

In a news release Thursday morning, Durham police said an anonymous tipster told the county sheriff's office about Lovett's whereabouts.

Southwest inspection snafu may take a toll

ANDREW D. SMITH MCT NEWS

No passengers died. No planes crash-landed. No pilots even reported malfunctions.

But questions about safety inspection failures at Southwest Airlines could still hurt the company's brand and cost it millions.

"A brand is a promise," said Kevin Keller, a marketing professor at Dartmouth College. "When a company violates that promise, in any way, it must apologize sin-

cerely. It must fix the problem swiftly. And it must convince customers that it will never repeat the mistake."

Only time will tell how much the Dallas-based company suffers from recent revelations that it flew some jets with small cracks in their bodies and that it failed to properly test many others for similar problems.

The airline has detected no effect on bookings.

Olympic torch route

The torch relay for the 2008 Beijing Games will be the longest in the history of the Games.



Olympics cause turmoil in Tibet

CHICAGO TRIBUNE MCT NEWS

Why would Tibet boil over right now?

It's a combination of ancient history and modern politics: Many Tibetans have rejected Chinese rule ever since 1950, when Communist troops entered and took control. The Dalai Lama led a failed uprising and fled into exile in India in 1959. China blames decades of periodic flare-ups on

incitement and provocation of the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize.

Beijing contends that Tibet is historically a part of China. But Tibetans generally argue that the remote Himalayan region was virtually independent for centuries. In recent decades, that friction has increased because of heavy migration of ethnic Han Chinese, who have altered the cultural and demographic profile of the region.

Things are particularly tense this year because Tibetan activists inside and outside China have declared their intention to bring

special pressure on Beijing in advance of the Olympic Games. Beijing has accused the Dalai Lama of seeking to sabotage the games, a charge that he denies.

What do the Olympics have to do with Tibet?

The Olympic Torch relay will include a scheduled stop on the top of Mt. Everest. China intended for that to be a sign of the vastness and splendor of the nation, stretching from the Yellow Sea in the East, to the Himalayas in the West. But Tibet activists have made the torch a rallying cry and are demanding the route be changed.

Medical experts reassess effects of sugarless gum

JEAN P. FISHER MCT NEWS

Maybe this explains why only four out of five dentists recommend sugarless gum to their patients who chew gum:

Turns out the first ingredient in most sugarless gums is a known laxative—sorbitol. And there's growing interest among medical providers in harnessing gum's unintended powers to help patients

whose insides are gummed up.

A recent study by University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill researchers found patients who chewed sugarless gum after bladder surgery were able to do their business slightly sooner than those who did not. The digestive tract goes on strike after most abdominal surgeries and it can take up to four days for things to get moving again. In the meantime, many patients suffer uncomfortable swelling, nausea and even vomiting.

The study is just the latest to show off sugarless gum's potential benefit to blocked-up surgery patients. But prescribing it as preemptive strike against constipation remains a sticky subject.

Dr. Brandon Roy, a general surgeon who practices with WakeMed Faculty Physicians in Raleigh, said some studies have found that gum makes no difference. Still other studies have linked regular, excessive consumption of sorbitol to chronic diarrhea and dangerous weight loss.

Like that fifth dentist, Roy doesn't recommend chewing gum to his patients, but would not object if an adventurous soul wanted to give it a whirl.

SENIORS!

Are you stressed deciding what to do after graduation?
Worried that you're the only one who doesn't have a job yet?
Breathe easy and come to...

Career College

Wednesday, March 19, 2008
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Ballrooms, Student Center

Career College is an event targeted toward graduating seniors.
Information about jobs by major, the job search, graduate school, volunteering, writing cover letters and resumes, interviewing, projected salaries, networking, and more.
RSVP for a mock interview by Friday, Feb. 29: email lia.kampman@wartburg.edu

There will be a FREE lunch from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the ballrooms.
Alumni will be present to talk about life after college.
RSVP by Friday, Feb. 29: email lia.kampman@wartburg.edu
- Limit of 90 students -

Event sponsored by Pathways, Alumni & Parent Programs, CCE and Iowa Campus Compact
Further questions? Email lia.kampman@wartburg.edu

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Baker and Bates lead women to conference title

PAM RODGERS ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Wartburg women's track and field team dominated the conference Feb. 29 and March 1. They were led by a sophomore Most Valuable Performer and a senior fighting an injury.

Sprinter Hannah Baker was voted MVP of the Iowa Conference meet after being crowned champion in three events.



Courtesy Photo

Hannah Baker turns the last curve of the 4x400 relay.

"When you're champion in three events of a conference meet; it's hard to win just one, but if you get three, that's pretty impressive," head coach Marcus Newsom said.

Baker started day one with her first win, taking top honors in the long jump with a leap of 5.30 meters. She carried the momentum into day two of the meet winning the 400-meter dash and running a provisionally national qualifying time of 57.06. Her last race was the 200-meter dash as she ran a 25.90 edging out teammate KeAnna Martin by a .02 of a second.

"I have a lot of goals for the indoor and outdoor seasons, but this award was something I definitely didn't expect," Baker said.

Baker is the first sophomore to receive the award since Wartburg's Missy Buttry won it in 2003. Baker and Buttry are the only two Wartburg women to ever receive the MVP of an indoor conference meet.

"It was a nice honor to bring home for the team since Wartburg is not always as recognized in the conference as we should be," Baker said.

"She is a competitor. She is very passionate about it. She is never satisfied," Newsom said. "I think that is the joy of coaching her. She comes to work hard every single day, and she is never ever content. Any time you have an athlete like that you know you have someone special."

Baker's performances last weekend were outstanding, but Jessica Bates, an athlete who has had success since her freshman year, was succeeding once again despite a knee injury.

"The weight is an event that is new to any freshman," Bates said. "They don't have the weight in high school, so it is a challenge to try and learn something totally different."

Bates was up to the challenge as she has made a national appearance in the event every year. Bates has also enjoyed success in the shot put. She made national appearances in her sophomore and junior years.

This year Bates has a new challenge to overcome; one that has kept her out of nationals in the shot put her senior year.

The Thursday before the conference meet, Bates

discovered she had a tear in the meniscus of her left knee. The senior made the choice to compete at the conference meet and the rest of the year without surgery.

"Being hurt is never fun and never easy, but having great training staff, I think that I am going to be able to make it through the rest of the season before getting surgery," Bates said.

As a senior, she made the decision with the coach's support.

"Her knee has been bothering her more so in the shot put than in the weight," Newsom said. "This is her senior year, so her response to the discomfort that she is feeling has been great."

Bates competed in the first women's event on day one, the weight throw. On her second throw, she threw an automatic national qualifying mark of 17.13 meters. The throw placed her second.

"It felt great to have such a good throw at conference," Bates said. "You always try to throw your best at conference and nationals, so I am glad that I did at conference."

"Any time you can kick off those first events with big performances on day one, it really sets the tone for the rest of the day, and it carries over for the next day," Newsom said. "Bates going in to the first event of the day and throwing an automatic qualifier on the second throw is like 'Wow.'"

Bates's injury did not factor into the throw. On day two, she placed fifth in the shot with a throw of 12.25 meters.

"You would have never known that it was bothering her with the way she threw the weight, and she even scored in the shot put," Newsom said. "That tells you about her maturity and the mark she wants to leave on this track and field family."

Baker was a young leader for the Knights, and Bates led with her seniority and perseverance. These two competitors set the tone for the meet on day one, and the rest of the Knights competitors built on their performances, which led to a big-time victory.

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Men back on top as Iowa Conference Champs

PAM RODGERS
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The goal for the men's track and field team was to win the conference meet as retribution after a four-point loss to Loras last year. The Knights were successful in their quest as they topped the Duhawks, by 150.5 to 118 this year.

"We all remembered what we felt like after we lost last year, and we knew we wouldn't let it happen again," senior distance runner Jake Hommer said. "We felt like we should have won that meet, but we just didn't have a few things go the way we needed them to, and to bounce back this year and place high in every event really righted some wrongs for us."

The team has been working toward this goal the whole indoor season. They worked through the lack of facility at the beginning of the year and continued to get better each week.

"We focused on the week at hand and tried to get ready for each and every meet trying to better ourselves each week and get ready for whatever came our way," senior jumper Karl Vogel said. "Really, last year's finish was enough motivation for all of us and that is what really allowed us to get after the workouts the weeks leading up to conference."

When it came to the conference meet, it was an entire team effort. The men came together as a group to come out on top at the

Iowa Conference track meet last weekend. People did their jobs in their events and scored points for the team.

"We did a good job of winning day one and day two," head coach Marcus Newsom said. "We scored in every single men's event. We have never done that before. That's pretty special to be able to do that and have the outcome we did."

Overall, the men only had two first-place finishes. Brian Chenoweth won the 5,000-meter run. The distance medley relay (DMR) that consisted of Andy Hodge, Derek Peth, Kevin Balster and Hommer brought home top honors.

"The week of conference we had one of our best workouts of the year so far. It just helped prepare us by letting us know we're ready to run as fast as we want to," senior distance runner, Hodge, said. "Peth, Hommer, Balster, and I were really focused on qualifying our DMR to nationals. That kept us motivated all week."

The runners got their goal with a provisionally qualifying time of 10:01.66. That time was less than two seconds short of an automatic qualifying time.

Even though there was a lack of champions, the men ended with a 32-point lead when all was said and done. This highlighted the team effort and the men's ability to bring home a team championship without having many individual champions.

Newsom attributed that to scoring multiple people in most events and the course that was set by the seniors.

"I think a lot of that has to do with our senior leadership and how they focused in before the conference meet," he said. "They corralled the underclassmen to come in the conference meet and cheer everyone on."

"Well, really everybody had their part in getting us ready. Some were vocal in trying to motivate the team while others tried to lead by example in practice," Vogel said. "Really, everybody contributed."

An important part of Wartburg tradition at the conference meet is their cheering section. Every event, the people who were not competing at that time cheered on those who were. The men found this to be vital to their accomplishments at the meet.

"We have a lot of talented athletes on our team, but the biggest contribution to that win came from the people who didn't get the chance to compete," Hommer said. "We had a lot of people doing multiple events, which really wears on you, but you could just feel the energy coming from the Wartburg section the moment you stepped on the track. Running through that section of track lined with your teammates screaming their lungs out for you is a feeling you won't forget."

As the men returned to their top

spot in the conference, Newsom was rewarded for his coaching. He received IIAC Men's Coach of the Year for guiding the men back a championship. Newsom was very happy about what the Knights accomplished.

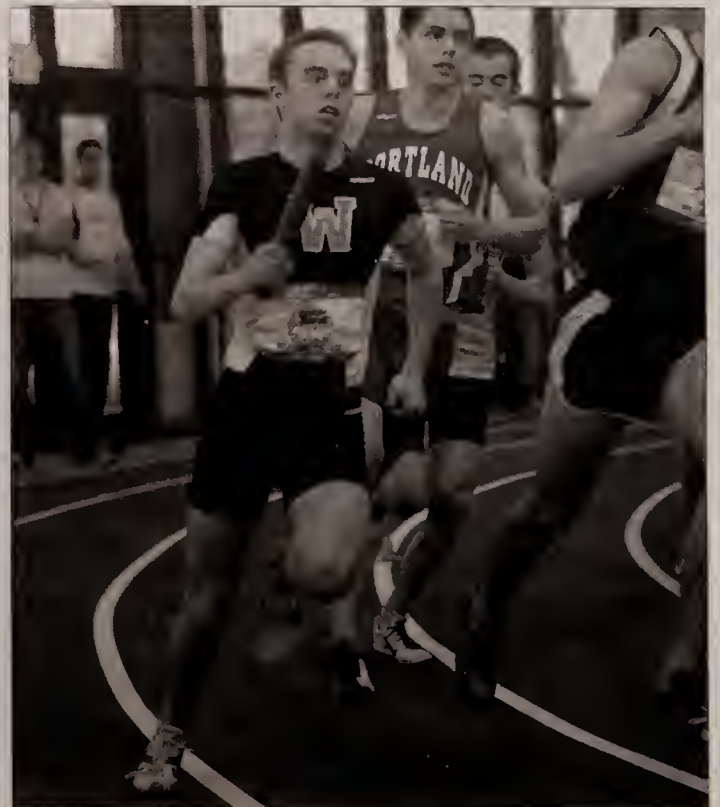
"I was really proud of our men. I was really proud of our senior leadership across the board. I think the men definitely wanted to make sure what happened last year didn't happen this year,"

Newsom said.

"Nothing compares to winning a team title, the feeling of overall success it brings to the team," Hodge said.

With indoor nationals now behind them, the men hope to have the same outcome at the conference meet when heading into the outdoor season.

Contact Pam Rodgers at
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Courtesy Photo

Andy Hodge advances his position in the distance medley relay.

Tennis loses two at home in new fieldhouse

PAM RODGERS
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Wartburg men's tennis team lost two matches at their first meet in "The W" last weekend.

"Everything went smoothly," head coach Benjamin Oestreich said. "It is a great atmosphere for tennis. The surface is excellent for tennis, and the way the courts are set up are great for the competitors and the fans."

On Saturday, the Knights took on Wabash College and lost 7-2.

No. 1 singles player, Tylor Schlader beat his Little Giant opponent, Luke Bielawski, in straight sets 6-3, 6-3.

Also in No. 1 doubles, Schlader and his partner Tom Koenen defeated their opponents 9-7.

"They were able to come from behind to finish them off. It was a really solid win for us in doubles," Oestreich said.

On Friday, the Knights played conference rival Luther College. Wartburg lost to the Norse 7-2.

The men's points came from No. 1 and 2 singles. Schlader and Koenen both got wins of their own. Schlader won 6-1, 6-2.

"Tylor is playing at a very high level right now. To be able to get two wins Friday and Saturday was pretty big," Oestreich said.

Koenen won his sets 6-4, 6-2.

"Tom is playing pretty well for this being his first two matches," Oestreich said. "For him to get a singles win against Luther and a doubles win against Wabash is a good start for him."

The weekend put the Knight's record overall at 4-7. The men will travel to Cedar Rapids next weekend for a tournament with conference opponents Coe College and Cornell College. The meet will start 9 a.m.

Over Winter Break, both the men's and women's tennis teams went to Hilton Head Island, S.C.

"We exceeded my expectations. Going in I was hoping we could play some competitive tennis, get some practice in, get used to playing outdoors and do some team building activities," Oestreich said. "Our team came back closer than ever. That is going to be key for us in building that team chemistry."

The men went 3-2 for the trip.

The men started off strong winning their first two matches. The first win was against Maryville College 8-1 and then a close one against Greensboro College 5-4.

Wartburg dropped the next match Catholic University of America 7-2. The Knights split the last two matches. They defeated Juniata College 6-3 and lost to Villa Julie College 6-3.

"We played really tight matches where each point was highly contested," Oestreich said. "They really came down to a couple tie break points."

The women went undefeated defeating all three opponents.

The Knights defeated the Catholic University of America 6-2, Juniata College 8-1 and Villa Julie College 9-0.

No. 1 singles, Molly Eslick was undefeated in the tournament winning all of her matches and her doubles matches with teammate Emily Heying.

Heying played at No. 3 singles and won all her matches. No. 2 singles, Amanda Barkema won all three matches and No. 2 doubles of Barkema and Mirela Bacevac

dominated their category.

"The women played so strong. They went 3-0 and really were never in danger of losing a match. They were just ready for the competition," Oestreich said.

Up next for the women will be a match against Simpson at home starting at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Pam Rodgers at
Pam.Rodgers@wartburg.edu



Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET

Tylor Schlader serves his way to a victory in singles against Luther.

Knights use early season tourneys to improve

LUKE SHANNO SPORTS EDITOR

Head coach Joel Holst and the Wartburg College baseball team have had their struggles early on this season. Inclement weather, facility issues, a tough traveling schedule, and a laundry list of injuries are just a few things the Knights have had to deal with on their way to a 6-9 record through the first two weeks of the season.

The Knights traveled to St. Louis Saturday and Sunday to compete at the Webster University Tournament. Saturday's match up against Concordia University (Ill.) was cancelled due to weather and field conditions.

Wartburg opened play Sunday against host institution Webster University. A three-run top of the first vaulted the Knights out to an early lead. Webster quickly surpassed that as they scored five runs in the bottom of the first. They equaled that in the second inning, then never looked back as they won an offensive slugfest 15-9.

Also on Sunday, the Knights took on Concordia University (Ill.) at the Webster tournament. The Knights dropped their second of the day by a score of 9-1.

The Knights opened up their 2008 campaign with a trip to the Metrodome in Minneapolis to take on St. Olaf (Minn.) and Bethel (Minn.).

Wartburg split with St. Olaf, dropping the first game 4-3, but bounced back to take game two of the double header 8-4.

Aaron Saeugling and Kyle Jones each went 2 for 4 at the plate to lead the Knights offensively. Saeugling tallied two RBIs to lead the team and Jones added an RBI in the win.

Holst has been impressed with his squad's ability to score runs early on in the season.

"We have done a pretty good job offensively in giving run support against opposing pitchers," Holst said.

Wartburg continued their baseball tour as they traveled to Orlando for a Winter Break trip that included nine games for the varsity squad.

The Knights opened competition in Florida with a 6-4 loss to Keystone (Pa.). Holst's squad bounced back, winning back-to-back doubleheaders the next two days, taking 11-1 and 7-1 victories from Wisconsin Lutheran, followed by 12-1 and 13-6 wins against Farmingdale State (N.Y.).

Saeugling went 3 for 4 with two RBIs in the Knights' first win against Wisconsin Lutheran while Jones went 2 for 4 with two RBIs. Mike Johnson went 2 for 2 with two runs scored and an RBI to help the Knights reach double figures.

In game two against Wisconsin Lutheran, Johnson went 2 for 4 knocking in a run while Isiah Stevens also went 2 for 4 and Zach Nagle went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Wartburg's second round of back-to-back wins saw Jones and A.J. Lewis both knock in three RBIs while Stevens went 2 for 4 with two RBIs to pace the Knights.

Game two against Farmingdale State ended with a 13-6 final in the Knights' favor. Stevens went 2 for 3 with four RBIs in the game while Jerrold Martijn made the most of his day at the plate, going 4 for 5 with two RBIs and three runs scored.

The Knights could not avenge their earlier loss to Keystone (Pa.) as they fell 7-2 to the Giants on March 5.

March 6 saw the Knights split a doubleheader against Aurora (Ill.). Wartburg dropped game one 7-6 but took game two 4-2.

Martijn led the Knights as he went 2 for 3 with two RBIs and also picked up the win on the mound.

Wartburg closed their Florida trip with a 7-6 loss to King's College (Pa.).

"Right from the beginning we felt we had the kind of team that could win a championship. I still believe that and the guys still believe that," Holst said. "These trips are really about finding out what we need to improve on and I think we've really found that out."

The Knights have had to deal with their fair share of injuries this early in the season, especially in the pitching ranks.

"From a pitching standpoint, we maybe kind of rushed guys," Holst said. "It has been one injury after another that we've been dealing with."

Wartburg will open up Iowa Conference action Friday at Hertel Field in Waverly when Cornell travels to town for a three game series against the Knights. Wartburg is trying to capture its 12-th consecutive IAC title.

First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday with the doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Luke Shanno at
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Knights drop two to Quincy after Florida tourney

ANDREW NOSTVICK STAFF WRITER

After starting the season 7-3, the Knights softball team returned from Kissimmee, Fla. and lost a doubleheader against Quincy University on Sunday.

The Knights played a close game in game one, losing by a score of 1-0. Wartburg had one hit in the game, which came in the fourth inning when Ashley Steines hit a two-out triple.

In game two, however, the Lady Hawks got the best of the Knights and defeated them 8-5. The

Knights started things off in the second inning with a homerun. Later in the inning, the Knights launched a three-run shot to take a 4-0 lead.

The Lady Hawks came back and ended up beading the Knights, the two losses put the Knights' overall record at 9-5.

Earlier in the week, the Knights swept a doubleheader on Wednesday against Millikin (Ill.) by scores of 1-0 and 10-3.

The Knights picked up their first win of the doubleheader when

outfielder Courtney Bain scored on an Ellie Petersen double.

The run was more than enough for Knights' ace Angela Hartwig as she threw a two-hit shutout. Hartwig threw six strikeouts and gave up one walk in the win.

Game two saw an explosive Knights' offense as they pulled out the 10-3 win. Hartwig once again had another strong pitching performance, throwing four scoreless innings, striking out six and walking one batter. Knights' coach Kara Kehe praised the effort

of her ace pitcher.

"Angela Hartwig did a great job, she's improved in a lot of areas for this season. She's been tough so far this year," Kehe said. "She's the anchor of our team."

Knights third baseman Steines stepped it up for the team when she needed to, going 3 for 4 at the plate, scoring two runs and picking up two stolen bases.

Steines, who leads the team with a .450 batting average in 12 games this season, is used to being in clutch situations and never seems to disappoint.

"She knows that it's a clutch situation and she comes up big in those opportunities," Kehe said. "We expect that sort of leadership at the plate from her."

Knights first baseman Ashley Rogers also had a strong performance in the second game. She went 2 for 5 with two RBIs and three runs scored and a two-run home run in the seventh inning.

With the wins, the Knights are now 9-3 and in fourth place in the Iowa Conference.

The Knights opened up the season in Kissimmee. They took part in the Rebel Spring Games, playing 10 games in five days. Their first win came against Roanoke (Va.), 3-0. The Knights' second game of the day was a loss to Muhlenberg (Penn.), 4-3.

The Knights started day two by defeating Beloit (Wisc.) 9-3 and Wittenberg 13-1. The Knights

defeated the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy 10-2 and Geneva 1-0 in day three action.

Day four saw the Knights lose their second game of the season, when they lost to Methodist by a score of 5-0.

Later that day, the Knights shut out Miskingum, 8-0. The Knights split their final two games of the Kissimmee trip, defeating Widener 2-1 and losing to Indiana Wesleyan, 1-0.

The trip was important to the Knights, as it was preparation for the upcoming conference season.

"I think we learned a lot over the course of the last two weeks. It's been a great growing opportunity for our team and our defense has played exceptionally well," Coach Kehe said. "We played a good schedule on our spring trip, a good number of ranked opponents nationally and teams that have been in regionals the past couple of years; so, that should help us as we move down the road."

The Knights played Culver-Stockton (Mo.) this afternoon (Monday). Next, Wartburg will play at Washington University in St. Louis Friday. The Knights will pack their bags and head to Carlinville, Ill. to take on Blackburn Saturday. The Knights will take on Waldorf College March 22.

Contact Andrew Nostvick at
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Courtesy Photo/File Photo

Ashley Rogers narrowly beats out a throw at first base at last year's regional tournament.

Women show strong; men avenge loss

FROM PAGE 12

Anna Kraayenbrink, Jennifer Kuiken and Amanda Kuiken also had top finishes for the Knights. Kraayenbrink won the 3,000-meter run and the 5,000-meter run. The Kuiken sisters finished second and third in the 800-meter run and the mile run. Jennifer brought home second-place honors in the both races while Amanda brought home third.

The Knights also faired well in the relays, as the 4x200-meter relay and the distance medley both brought home top honors. The 4x400-meter relay team took second.

Men recover last year's loss to Loras

On the men's side of things, it was all about avenging their loss to Loras last year.

"For the men, they wanted to recover from last year," Newsom said. "And ever since outdoor conference last year, it showed they were very passionate about coming out on top and that carried over to this year."

Brian Chenoweth finished in first and second in the 5,000-meter run and the 3,000-meter run respectively.

In the 5,000, the Knights brought home first, third and fourth place finishes from Chenoweth, Brian Mullenbach and Jon Stover respectively.

"We didn't have very many champions, but we had at least one scorer in every single event," Newsom said. "It was a total, complete family contribution."

With the end of the indoor season, the Knights will focus on the outdoor season with their first meet of the year March 28th at the University of Missouri Relays in Columbia, Mo.

"You want to enjoy and savor the moment but when it gets about time for the outdoor season I get really excited," Newsom said.

"I'm excited and the athletes are excited and we have a lot of athletes at home that are hungry for the national meet. We are very proud of our indoor season but excited for outdoor as well, once the track is clear of snow and we can get the shovels out there, we'll be on the track and ready to go."

Contact Mac Slavin at Mac.Slavin@wartburg.edu

Coach leaves for top-tier program and city

FROM PAGE 12

struggle but managed to rejuvenate both programs and left them better than when he showed up.

"Coach Conlon did a great job developing our soccer programs. The progress both programs made throughout the past eight years is remarkable and very impressive," Rick Willis, director of athletics, said.

Conlon is stepping into the head coaching position at Washington University, a member of the University Athletic Association, to replace former Bears head coach Wendy Dillinger. Dillinger was named Iowa State University's new head women's soccer coach.

Conlon inherits a WashU program that has become known on the national soccer stage. In the past six seasons, the Bears had an overall record of 86-25-8 and were ranked No. 9 last year.

Washington University has also earned four University Athletic Association championships. The Bears made four trips to the NCAA Div.

III tournament in the past six seasons, including a berth in the Sweet 16 this fall.

"Most coaches don't get to make a coaching change to a winning team. Washington University has had a winning team for years in a lot of sports," Conlon said. "It's an interesting opportunity in that respect."

One of the most important factors with the coaching move was the opportunity it offered Conlon and his family.

"I think the biggest reason for leaving was that it got myself and

my wife a chance to raise our children in a city. It has nothing to do with the players or the people at Wartburg," Conlon said. "By no means was it, 'Oh WashU is better.' It's a much better place for me. It's never easy leaving the kids."

Wartburg is currently searching for a new coach to step into both the men's and women's coaching positions.

Conlon offered a few of his favorite memories from his past eight seasons with the Knights.

"Here in the new 'W' this fall, we had both men and women huddled around the computer trying to figure out where they were going to go play in the NCAA tournament. To see both teams as actively involved in each others' success and future was pretty special knowing the turmoil we took over in 2000," he said.

"Bar none, the best memory for me is graduation day every year," Conlon said. "Watching those kids walk across the stages is way more gratifying than on the field."

Wartburg and Washington University are tentatively scheduled to meet in Waverly during the 2008 season.

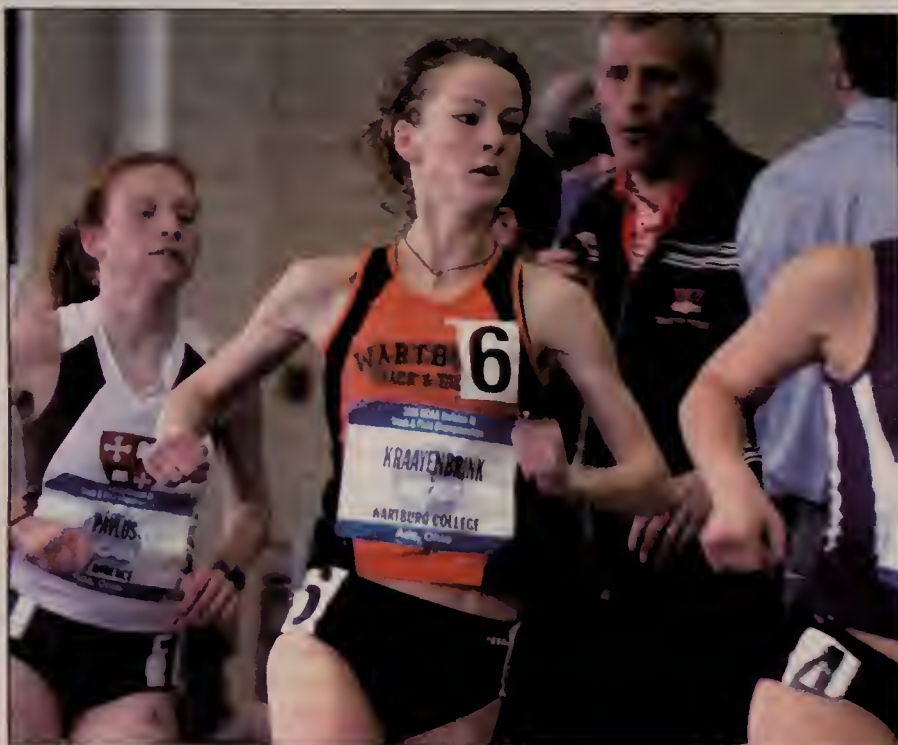


Roland Ferrie/TRUMPET/File Photo

Jim Conlon gathers with the women's team this fall.

Contact Luke Shanno at
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Women's track takes national runner-up title



Courtesy Photo/TRUMPET

Anna Kraayenbrink rounds a curve to take home a fifth-place finish in the 5,000-meter run.

MAC SLAVIN ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Twelve women and six men returned home to Wartburg from the NCAA Div. III National Indoor Track and Field meet, held in Ada, Ohio, this weekend with All-American honors.

"This has never happened, but every athlete we took to nationals came home an All-American. I don't know if any coach at the national meet can say that every athlete they took to the meet came home an All-American," head coach Marcus Newsom said.

The women had a tight bout with the Titans from Illinois Wesleyan, as they tried to gain a spot on the awards stand.

The women were neck-and-neck with Wesleyan, but the Titans ran to a first-place finish in the day's last event, the 4x400-meter relay, an event in which the Knights placed second in, just 47-hundredths of a second behind the Titans.

However, the relay team ran the second

fastest time in school history. The team was composed of Hannah Baker, Jenny Kordick, Kelsey Steffens and Christine Marchick. The team finished with a time of 3:52.68.

The Knights' distance medley relay also earned All-American honors. Amanda and Jennifer Kuiken, Jenny Kordick and Emily VanOosbree finished in fifth place with a time of 12:07.7.

Two Wartburg women came home with more than one All-American performance. Jennifer Kuiken added another All-American performance to her plate when she finished sixth in the mile with a time of 5:04.62. Baker brought home third place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.73, which brought her All-American performances up to two for the weekend.

Anna Kraayenbrink brought home an All-American performance in the 5,000-meter run after finishing fifth with a time of 17:22.8. Jessica Bates also brought home All-American honors in the weight throw

with a toss of 16.44 meters.

The women finished in second place with 27 points, while Illinois Wesleyan finished with 30 to win the team title. This is the second time in the last three years the women have placed in the top three.

"It's really just an honor to be in the hunt [for a national title]," Newsom said. "I couldn't be more proud of the young men and women that traveled and represented this college well."

The men also brought home some All-Americans en route to their 12th place finish. The men finished with 12 points, and the 12th place finish is the best the Knights have ever finished at an indoor national tournament.

Kevin Balster and Brian Chenoweth brought home All-American performances in the 5,000-meter run. Balster finished in fourth place with a time of 14:35.26 and Chenoweth brought home seventh place with a time of 14:45.44.

Four men brought home All-American honors in the distance medley. Andy Hodge, Jacob Hommer, Derek Peth and Balster finished in fourth place with a time of 10:05.94.

"All five men were leaders," Newsom said. "They were leaders from their experience, the sacrifices they've made and their wheels, so I think that was very special. It was pretty special to finish the best we have finished at an indoor national meet with those five guys."

The 18 All-American awards the Knights brought home was the program's best. This is also the seventh straight year the Knights have returned home with 10 or more All-Americans.

Before heading to nationals, the Knights participated in the ILAC Championships, at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

The women won the meet by a margin of 148.66 points. The Knights won the meet with 259 points, while the Simpson Storm took second with 110.33 points ahead of third place Luther, who finished with 83.

On the men's side of things, the Knights avenged last year's loss to Loras by winning

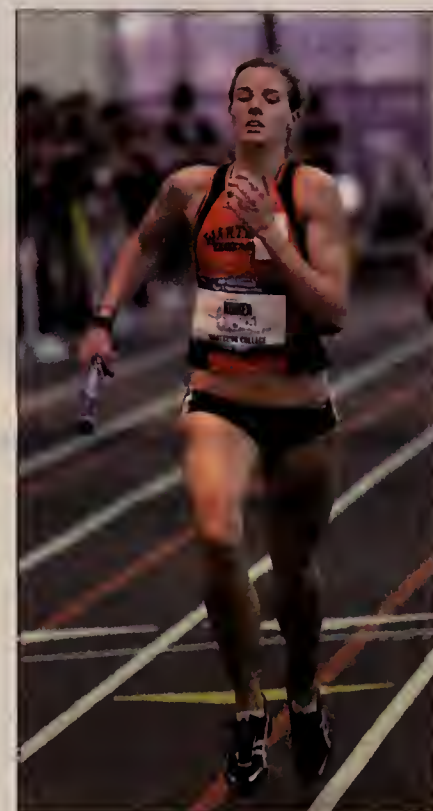
the meet by 32.5 points. The Knights finished with 150.5 points while Loras came in second with 118. Central rounded out the top three with 108.5 points.

"The women were pretty dominant and it showed where our program is right now," Newsom said. "It's pretty special. Everyone had a chance to make a contribution."

The women brought home many top finishes. The Knights saw top three finishes in many events. In the 55-meter dash Wartburg finished in the top four places. They also finished top three in the 200-meter dash.

Hannah Baker led the group of 200 finishers by placing first. She also won the 400-meter dash and the long jump.

See WOMEN SHOW page 11



Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Kuiken races to the finish line of the women's distance medley relay.

Conlon leaves for Washington University

LUKE SHANNO SPORTS EDITOR

Wartburg men's and women's soccer coach Jim Conlon announced his resignation from the Wartburg College soccer programs Monday, March 10 to take the head women's coaching position at Washington University in St. Louis.

Conlon was hired in 2000 as the men's soccer coach.

"I decided to take the opportunity to look at the men's

job," Conlon said.

Two weeks into his tenure as men's head coach, the women's coach resigned and then athletic director Gary Grace asked Conlon to take over the women's program as well.

"I talked to Gary Grace and said I thought that I could move the programs forward together," Conlon said.

In his eight seasons as head coach, Conlon compiled an overall record of 204-105-13 with

both teams.

"My goal when I got here, as I told Gary, was I wanted to increase our reputation and year in and year out be contenders for the conference title," Conlon said.

Conlon's tenure on the sideline included three men's Iowa Conference regular season championships, three Iowa Conference tournament championships, five NCAA Div. III national tournament appearances, three Sweet 16

appearances, and an Elite Eight appearance in 2004, along with a 108-48-8 overall record.

Conlon coached the women's team to the program's first Iowa Conference tournament championship in 2007. The Knights were runners-up in the ILAC regular season race in 2005 and 2007.

This past season also marked the first NCAA Div. III national tournament appearance for the women's squad, eventually

advancing to the Sweet 16. During his time with the women's program, Conlon compiled a 96-57-5 record.

Conlon graduated from Loras College in 1998 where he was a member of the Duhawks' soccer team. He spent two years at Loras as an assistant coach and was then hired to coach at Wartburg.

Conlon entered the Wartburg soccer programs during times of

See COACH LEAVES page 11

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

BASEBALL



vs. Cornell
Hertel Field
Friday 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL



vs. Culver-Stockton
St. Louis, Mo.
Friday 1:30 p.m.

OUTDOOR TRACK



Warhawk Classic
Whitewater, Wis.
Friday and Saturday

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Cedar Rapids
Saturday 9 a.m., 12 p.m.

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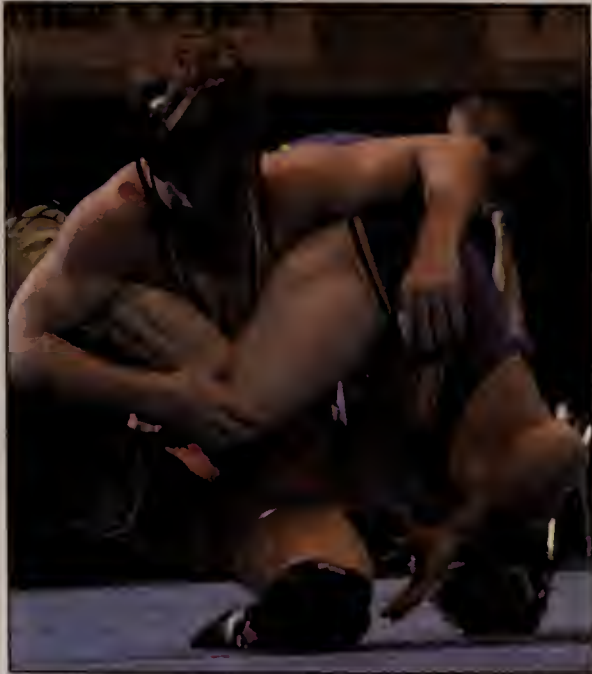
KNIGHTS TAKE SIXTH TEAM TITLE

The Wartburg wrestling team captured their fourth national team title in the last six years and sixth team championship overall behind three individual champions and nine All-American performances at the NCAA Div. III Wrestling Championships Friday and Saturday at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Head coach Jim Miller's squad finished the tournament with 147 points, topping second-place University of Wisconsin - La Crosse by 47 points and beating perennial wrestling powerhouse Augsburg College of Minneapolis (Minn.) by 60 points.

Shoot to Page 2

NAIG PERSEVERES TO CLAIM CHAMPIONSHIP



A sixth place finish in 2005, a runner-up finish in 2006, and an injury sidelining him for the 2007 season left Jacob Naig hungry for a spot at the top of the podium.

"It's been hard because I had to wait last year and just had to step back and watch everything rather than being a part of it," Naig said.

By Saturday evening, he found himself at the top of the national wrestling stage.

"I had to take the year off last year and I've been building up and building up and finally it all came together and worked out for me," Naig said.

The top-ranked Naig opened his 2008 NCAA Div. III national tournament campaign as the No. 1 seed at 149 lbs. with a round one bye.

A second round 9-2 decision over University of Wisconsin – Platteville's Ryan Higgins moved the Knights' 149-lb. grappler into the championship quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinal round, Naig topped UW –

La Crosse's Matt Mauseth in a 9-4 decision. In the semifinals, Naig showed his strength as he pinned the No. 5-seed Jeff Kastel of Elmhurst in 4:59 vaulting himself into the championship finals.

Naig's road to the national title was long and filled with ups and downs, but it was all worth it for the red-shirt junior when he topped the No. 3-seed Elliot Spence of Mt. St. Joseph with an 8-2 decision.

"My finals match, it was great. I felt great out there and I felt in control the whole time which is what you want," Naig said.

Naig has high hopes for next season as he returns for his final year, looking to defend his national title.

"It's finally great to get that because that's always what I was trying to do. My brother won three of them, but I can only get two now...but you take what you get I guess," Naig joked.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF AT TOURNAMENT

Continues from Front Page

Coming off the IIAC tournament title, the Knights knew they were in a good position to contend for a national title, but did not want to be over confident.

"We were confident, but this is the NCAA tournament, you can't be too confident because you see upsets happen every round," head coach Jim Miller said. "We don't want to be an upset victim so you've got to be ready to go every single round."

Wartburg advanced six wrestlers out of the nine in the championship bracket to the second day while the Knights saw three more individuals advance to day two of the tournament in the consolation bracket.

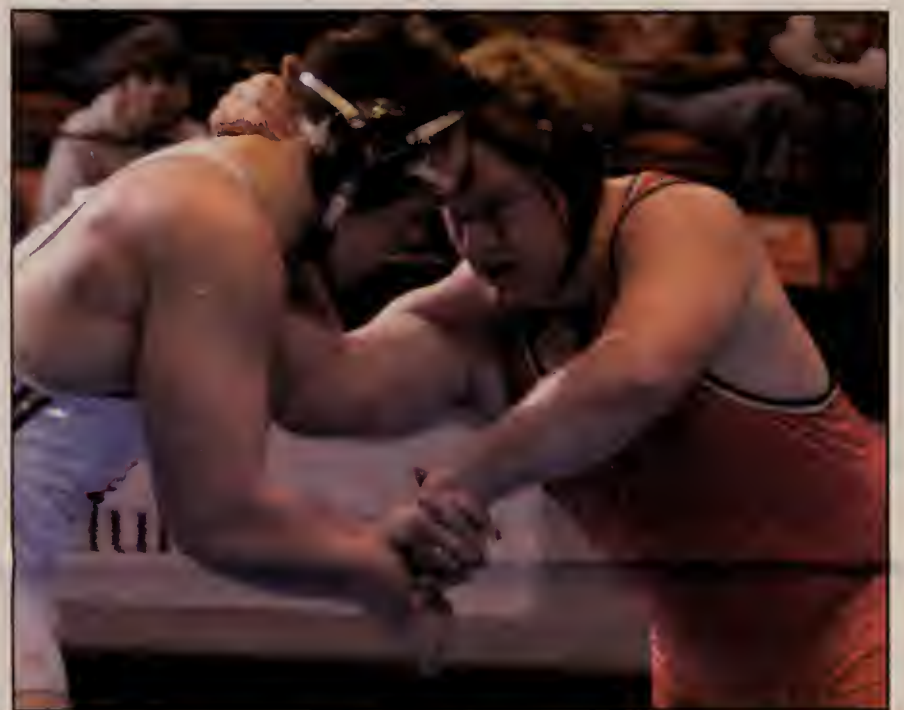
Jake Helvey (133 lbs.), Jacob Naig (149 lbs.), Aaron Wernimont

(157 lbs.), Romeo Djoumessi (184 lbs.), T.J. Miller (197 lbs.), and Brian Borchers (hwt.) all moved on to day two with aspirations of walking away with individual titles.

"They wrestled really hard. To give themselves a chance to wrestle for a championship, that's not an easy deal. You've got to really wrestle hard every match," Miller said.

All six wrestlers advanced through the semifinal round and moved on to championship matches in their respective weight classes.

When all was said and done inside the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids, Naig, Wernimont and Djoumessi walked away with individual champion hardware while Helvey, Miller and Borchers



all ended their matches two points shy of titles, taking away runner-up honors.

Wernimont wrestled to a 4-0 finish at the tournament and finished the year with only one loss. His personal accomplishment, added to the team finish, makes it all worth it.

"It feels awesome, the individual win and the team win too. For me it's the perfect tournament," Wernimont said.

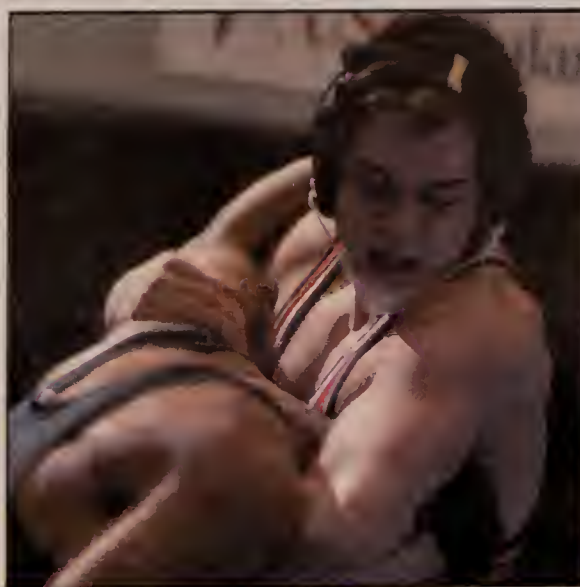
Robert Struthers (125 lbs.), Matt Kelly (141 lbs.), and Justin Hanson (165 lbs.) all advanced to day two in the consolation brackets.

Struthers moved on to a fourth-place finish as he lost his final

match to No. 1-seeded Christopher Heilman of Cornell. 10-5. Kelly wrestled his way to a fifth-place finish overall, taking an 8-5 decision over Coe's Niles Mercer. Hanson took home seventh for the Knights with a 12-7 decision against Justin Bonitas of the College of New Jersey.

All three individual champions return for the 2009 season, looking now to defend both individual and team national titles.

COPY/PHOTOS-LUKE SHANNO
DESIGN/PHOTOS-ROLAND FERRIE



FATHER AND SON PART WAYS ON TOP

Saturday marked the end of an era, albeit a five-year era, where it was common to see two Miller's on the mat during any given match. Head coach Jim Miller watched his son, senior 197-pounder T.J., wrestle his last collegiate match at the Div. III national tournament at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

T.J. finished runner-up to Matt Miller of Lycoming College at the championships after taking the 197 lb. title a year ago, but finished his career on a high note with a team title.

"It feels awesome. It's kind of a fairy tale ending. We get to go out as team champions. I wanted to win it myself, but the main goal is to win it as a team," T.J. said.

T.J. also joined an exclusive group of Wartburg wrestlers at the national tournament as he carded his 100th win while sporting the black and orange. Miller joins teammates Robert Struthers and Jake Helvey as 2008 inductees into the group.

"It's unusual to have that many kids in your



starting lineup with 100 wins or more," coach Miller said.

"I'm very proud of him [T.J.] as a dad too," Miller said, commenting on his son's 100-plus win career.

"If you told me I would have 100 wins, be a three-time All-American and have a national championship in there, I would have told you that you were crazy," T.J. said. "One hundred wins is cool but it holds nothing compared to winning a team title and going to get the trophy with your friends."

Miller's run at the national tournament began with a first round pin against Hunter's Ben Bonaventura in 1:44. A 1-0 decision over No. 8 seed Diego Crespo of Johnson and Wales vaulted Miller into the semifinals.

Miller turned in a 3-1 decision over No. 4 seeded Craig Bollig of University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point to jump into the finals.

Miller came up on the short end of a 2-0

decision in the finals, but still walked away with a part of the team title.

"Last year I won it myself and we got second as a team, I feel pretty good about this year. It's definitely an accomplishment," T.J. said.

T.J. knows that having his dad as his coach has been special.

"It's cool for me because my dad is in the corner for every match. Looking up, even when I'm the middle of a match it's pretty cool seeing him."

"He's been coaching at Wartburg a long time even before I've been here. It's going to be nothing different," T.J. said about his dad not having his son on the team anymore.

"I've really enjoyed that relationship with T.J. Being on the road, practices, meets, sitting in the chair in his corner, it's been an awesome experience," coach Miller said.



DJOUMESSI SOLIDIFIES PERFECT SEASON

A national wrestling championship eluded Romeo Djoumessi last season but caused the 184-pounder to look for the internal motivation to improve on his fourth-place finish from 2007.

"Last year I remember sitting in the stands watching all the other guys wrestle," Djoumessi said. "That reminded me what I needed to do to improve."

"I felt a lot more prepared this year. I had a lot of motivation. I wanted to be a national champion," Djoumessi said.

The junior, a product of Waverly-Shell Rock and native of Cameroon turned in a perfect season, finishing the year with a 29-0 record to lead the Knights as the squad's only undefeated wrestler.

Djoumessi turned in a 4-0 record at the national tournament en route to the title. A round one nail-biting 10-9 decision over Bridgewater States' James Quinlan moved the junior into the second round where he pinned Springfield's Elliot Smith in 6:50.

The semifinals saw Djoumessi turn in a 5-4 decision over La Crosse's No. 4-seeded Joshua Zabel, bumping him into the finals.

An 8-2 decision over No. 2-seeded Michael Wilcox of Delaware Valley landed Djoumessi the first place trophy.

"It is a good feeling. I'll take this right now. It was a great season and it was something I'll never forget," Djoumessi said.

Djoumessi occupied the top spot at the

184 lb. weight class starting with the pre-season Div. III ranking released in late October and maintained his No. 1 ranking throughout the season.

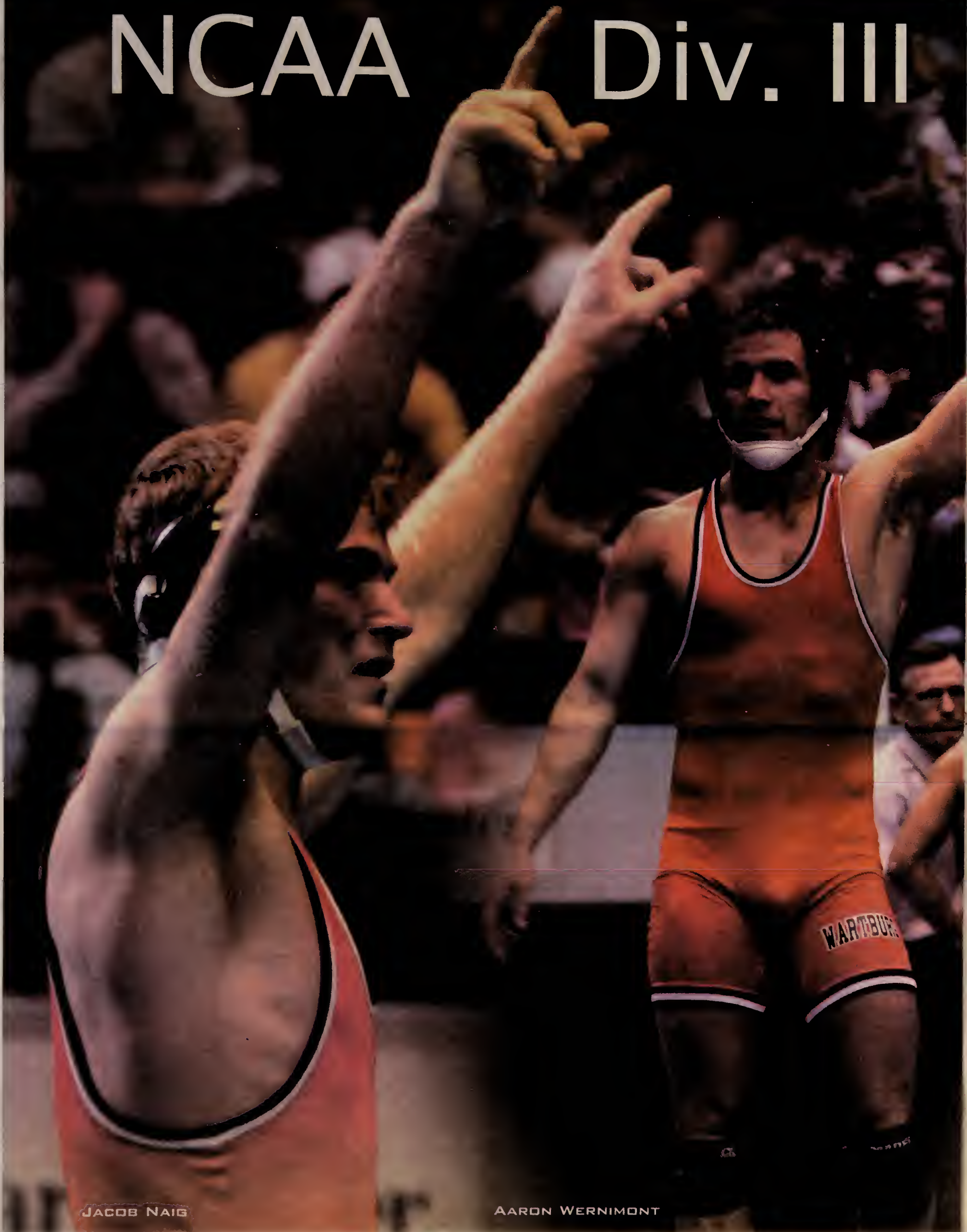
The blemish-free season culminated with Djoumessi's first individual national title and helped the Knights to their 47-point

victory and fourth team title in the last six seasons.

"It's a great feeling. It's what we've been working the whole year for year as a team. We put in the time as individuals and as a team for this," Djoumessi said.



NCAA Div. III



JACOB NAIG

AARON WERNIMONT



Robert Struthers
125 lbs.
4th Place



Jake Helvey
133 lbs.
Runner-up



Matt Kelly
141 lbs.
5th Place



Justin Hanson
165 lbs.
7th Place



T.J. Miller
197 lbs.
Runner-up



Brian Borchers
285 lbs.
Runner-up